

ESL Speed Readings: the app

(Download for Android [here](#) or iOS [here](#))

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Outline

- ① Situate speed reading
- ② The history of the app
- ③ Demonstrate the app
- ④ Implications for research and pedagogy
- ⑤ What's next?

Speed reading?

- Speed reading is part of the fluency strand (Nation, 2013)
- The purpose of speed reading is to increase reading speed
- There should be very little (or no) unknown vocabulary

The history of the app

- <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/lals/resources/paul-nations-resources/speed-reading-and-listening-fluency>

App introduction

- Currently has 120 stories
- 4 difficulty levels: 500, 1000, 2000, 3000 word levels (BNC)
- Either 300 words (500-word level) or 400 words (all other levels)
- 8-10 multiple-choice questions after each reading
- Two types of statistics: individual (with visualization) and overall
- Two versions: offline (small fee) and online (free)

Downloading the app

- Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.esl_reading_speed&hl=en&gl=US
- iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/esl-speed-readings/id1587673967>
- Search the app store for 'ESL speed readings'



Mechanics

Standard words per minute

- Six characters including spaces and punctuation (Carver, 1976)
- Word length affects reading rate (Kramer & McLean, 2019)

Mechanics

Reading timer

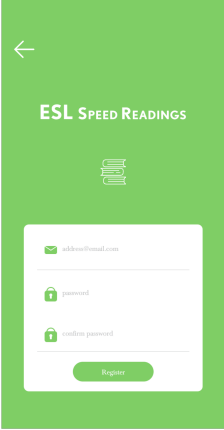
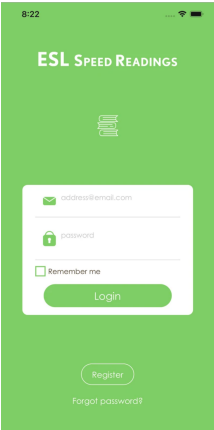
- Timer is in milliseconds
- Assuming a reading rate of 240 words per minute (4 words per second), there would be a ± 4 word error with a timer timing in seconds
- The app timer is thus accurate to .004 words

Mechanics

Customized feedback

- Reminder to read at around 250 words per minute (wpm) and aim for a 70% quiz score
- Choose an easier reading packet when the learner has low wpm and low quiz scores
- Read faster when the learner has low wpm and adequate quiz scores
- Choose a harder level when the learner has high wpm and high quiz scores

Demo



Implications for research and pedagogy

- Data can be anonymized and so can be used for research purposes (built into the terms of service)
- Investigate how repeated reading affects reading rate (in the future. . . see next slide)

What's next?

General

- Build a tutorial on how to use the app
- The stories' lengths are not controlled. I have written 3000-character versions but not implemented yet
- Consider saving each attempt for each reading (currently saves only the most recent attempt)
- Update the graph to allow for filtering by difficulty level, reading packet, etc.

What's next?

The Updated Vocabulary Levels Test (Webb, Sasao & Ballance, 2017)

- Fully implement

Teacher Panel

- Gives teachers access to their students' data so they can provide assistance, monitor progress, and use the data for grading purposes
- Will be available through the website (<http://eslspeedreading.tjuggles.com>)
- Will be available for PC and smartphones

Questions and/or comments?

References

- Carver, R. P. (1976). Word length, prose difficulty, and reading rate. *Journal of Literacy Research*, 8, 193-203.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10862967609547176>
- Kramer, B., & McLean, S. (2019). L2 reading rate and word length: The necessity of character-based measurement. *Reading in a Foreign Language*, 31(2), 201-225.
- Nation, I.S.P. (2013). *Learning vocabulary in another language* (2nd Edition). Cambridge University Press.
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